



UNITED STATES
CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION
4330 EAST WEST HIGHWAY
BETHESDA, MD 20814

Departure Statement of the Honorable Thomas H. Moore

October 19, 2011

Today I am taking part in my last public meeting at the Commission. With this morning's votes we advance a final rule that will establish protocols and standards with respect to certification and continued testing for children's products. We also finalize a rule that will provide for relying on component part testing and certification for certifying compliant finished products. I am extremely proud to be here to cast my vote for these very important measures that will provide for an increase in the safety of children's products in our marketplace and will also provide options for lessening the cost of testing and certification.

The CPSC has always played a pivotal role in providing for the safety of the American public. During my tenure as a Commissioner, I have seen the Commission work through many difficult times as it has sought to carry out its mission. When I arrived in 1995, there were questions about how a reduced budget would impact the Commission's ability to function. And, as I now prepare to leave, there are again questions about how a reduced budget will impact the Commission's ability to function.

However, with pride, I can say that this Commission has always managed to move forward despite the difficult times. The reason is simple. From the very beginning of my term here at the Commission I have observed that the Commission's staff is its most important asset. The Commission staff is its core element and the reason why the Commission is viewed as a serious and important federal regulatory presence. Their reliable work product and carefully crafted recommendations are at the very heart of this agency's success and I would be remiss if I didn't acknowledge and thank them for their hard work.

My knowledge of good staff work is keen. All familiar with the Commission during my time here know of the high qualifications and professionalism of my own personal staff. Linda Taylor, Pamela Weller and Michael Gougisha are the reasons why my office garnered the reputation as the "voice of reason" at the Commission. My staff was also instrumental in securing increases in our appropriation and authorization levels and our FTEs, securing funds for the modernization of our lab facilities, getting the level of our civil penalty authority raised, lowering the levels of lead in children's products, expanding CPSC's presence at our ports, removing the concern about losing a quorum when a Commissioner – or even two – departs, and most importantly, initiating the creation, development and funding of a consumer complaint database which also provided for the funding for the modernization and integration of our database systems. I thank them for their invaluable service.

Experience has taught me that reasoned Commission action should reflect a pragmatic approach to resolving safety problems and there should be recognition that regulation is only one of many options that can be employed to address safety issues. I think that consumers should be well informed about the products they purchase and they should take reasonable care in using them. However, it has always been clear to me that CPSC's role is to stand guard and to protect. When the Commission becomes aware that there are unreasonable hazards, the Commission must stand ready to protect the consumer expeditiously and without compromise.

I believe that, over the years, I have demonstrated a consistent and responsible approach to consumer product safety issues. I believe I have served the public well and I want to encourage my fellow Commissioners, the consumer groups and advocates, and the regulated community to continue the important work that will result in decreasing the chance that innocent consumers are unnecessarily put in harm's way by exposure to unsafe consumer products.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my time here. It has been a pleasure working with different Commissioners, all having varying ideas about how to achieve the same goal – safer products. Most recently, the policy debates have sometimes been intense but there is no question in my mind that everyone wants the same outcome - safer products. I leave confident that in the end the desired outcome will continue to be achieved – safer products.

Thank you. And now, it is time for me to go.